In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

When a packet is dropped due to an adverse transmission condition, the switching device that dropped it may create a second packet to be forwarded to the destination device. The second packet may be an intention packet that corresponds to the dropped packet. The switching device may then route or forward the intention packet to the destination device specified by the dropped packet. The intention packet may be much smaller than the dropped packet and may include a header portion or part of a header portion of the dropped packet, as discussed below. Accordingly, it may require substantially less bandwidth than the dropped packet so that a switching device may be able to guarantee its delivery to the next device if congestion was encountered. For fault conditions, the device may send the intention packet to the destination using a different route in order to avoid the fault condition.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

A device may react to receiving an intention packet based on the information in the intention packet as well as its own characteristics. The information in the intention packet may indicate whether the dropped packet was a request or a response to a request. If the dropped packet was a request, then the device that receives the intention packet, i.e. the receiving device, may send a signal to the requesting device that its request has been dropped. The receiving device may also perform an operation that corresponds to the request in anticipation of receiving the resent packet. If the dropped packet was a response to a request, then the requesting device will receive the intention packet. The requesting device may reschedule the request in response to receiving the intention packet and may convey a subsequent packet that includes the request to the receiving device. The requesting device may be configured to optimize the resending of the

request by rescheduling the request for a more appropriate time or by merging the request with a subsequent request.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Devices 100 and 120 may be configured to communicate through network 110. Device 100 may convey a request to switching device 112a. The request may be routed or transmitted through network 110 until it is received at switching device 112(n) and ultimately at device 120. Device 120, depending on the request, may convey a response to the request to switching device 112(n). The response may be routed through network 110 until it is received at switching device 112a and ultimately at device ~~120~~ 100. In one embodiment, switching devices 112 are simple switches that include at least one input port, one output port, and operate to pass data from an input port to an output port. In other embodiments, switching devices 112 may be more intelligent devices such as packet routers or computer systems.